

# Finstock News 24

Serving Finstock, Fawler, Wilcote, Mt. Skippett and Finstock Heath

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Village Events                             | 2 |
| Recycling                                  | 3 |
| Letters; 2003 summary                      | 4 |
| Small ads; War Memorial; Pub News          | 5 |
| Notice Board; Lectures; Living in Finstock | 6 |



|   |      |
|---|------|
| Shop; broadband; house sparrows; Internet | 7    |
| Church; gardening; wine                   | 8    |
| Finstock Festival; history; School        | 9-10 |
| Between The Posts                         | 11   |
| Wychwood Project programme                | 12   |



St. George...

If you want to find information noted in this *Newsletter* through the Internet but lack computer access, please contact either Joy Murphy (868575), *Finstock News*, or Chris Turner (868752), *Finstock Website*.

Contact for the Thames Valley Police to notify a non-emergency problem is 08458-505505.



... and the Turkish Knight

## Things to Do in 2004

**PARTICIPATE** in the Finstock Festival July 4th–10th in Finstock!  
**KILL** a Rat! 2003 was the year that the UK's rat population outpaced the human population.  
**BOOK** now to attend the Athens Olympics August 13th–29th. Where else can you watch Iraq play Afghanistan at beach volleyball? [www.athens2004.com](http://www.athens2004.com)  
**WATCH** Euro 2004 in Portugal. England's first match, against France, June 13th. [www.euro2004.com](http://www.euro2004.com)  
**REDUCE** salt intake to help prevent high blood pressure and stomach cancer. Adults should eat no more than 6g a day.

Babies up to six months should have less than 1g of salt a day. Cut down on crisps, nuts and other salty snacks plus foods such as bacon, cheese, pickles, smoked fish, stock cubes, soy sauce and convenience meals. Food Standards Agency [www.food.gov.uk/healthiereating](http://www.food.gov.uk/healthiereating)

**VISIT** Mars <http://mars.jpl.nasa.gov>, and click on Mars Rover! Or, CCLRC Rutherford Appleton Laboratory in Chilton, Didcot for a science lecture or visit. (Please see p.6 for details.)

**VOTE** on the European constitution [www.vote-2004.com](http://www.vote-2004.com) or <http://european-convention.eu.int>

Our December/January Issue contained a few errors. We apologise to Callow Farm for their Christmas Turkey ad which should have contained the following wording: *At Callow Farm we produce a limited number of the finest free range bronze feathered birds to the highest "Golden Promise" standards of the Traditional Farmfresh Turkey Association.*

This picture (*right*) should have accompanied the Women's Institute article.

And here is the missing AC Finstock article.



The Village Hall decked out for the WI Evenlode group evening.

## BETWEEN THE POSTS

### Club News

At the start of the season I wrote about the new sponsorship deals we secured for kits. As I said then, the club is indebted to Paul Hodgkinson who sponsored the 1st XI kit through Town and Country Trees. The kit for the Reserves was supplied through Michael Peck's efforts at Mayfield Security Services. Paul has provided training balls and kit bags, and Michael supplied and operated the spraying machine used for the painting of the pavilion. I would like to take this opportunity to thank John at The Crown who was a great host and supplied us with lovely food and beer, and to Foxbury Farm, who, I understand, will supply us with some Match Balls.

Another great big thank you must go to Derek Bennett who has taken on the role of 1st XI manager relieving me of six years of continuous phone calls and headaches. His commitment to the club is second to none and his

contributions on and off the field demand the respect of players and followers alike. He and his wife, Jo, have supplied the club with goal nets and pegs. We have also replaced the grotty old bucket, sponge and odd bandage that was rescued from the once active hospital at Ramsden Heath thanks to Derek and Jo, who have given us two first aid boxes (not cheap) that are well stocked with everything needed.

It has also been nice to see the large number of people watching the games. It is encouraging that the village is supporting the club. I know it has been difficult in the past, as the club has not had as many village connections as we would have liked but the generation gap is closing and the village connections are growing by the month. There are still two or three people out there who should be involved but for one reason or another, this is a season too soon. We hope to have at least five more village players next season. (See p.11.)

Andy Compton



# VILLAGE EVENTS



## Good Companions

On Saturday December 13th we had a Christmas party at Horace's. Everyone was looking forward to this as we wanted to make this year a bit special, as a remembrance of Ada Stevens who passed away a few months ago. We placed a wreath on her grave. Our thanks to Horace for his hospitality and for the entertainer (no, not a stripper!) a singer. We would also like to thank Paulin for the fantastic meal and Shirley for helping and waiting on us at table. They all worked really hard to make our day most enjoyable, we had a great time. So, thank you all once again. Also, thanks to Ken with the minibus for picking us up and taking us back home.



Our first meeting in 2004 will be held on Wednesday February 11th. Membership renewal will be due, and any new members will be welcome. Happy New Year to you ALL!

Eileen Peters

**Finstock Local History Society** 7.45pm in the Village Hall: members free, visitors £1.50.

**Friday February 13th *Sporting Guns 1650-1870***. A talk by Hugh Hinde of the Muzzle Loaders Association. The talk covers the history of the sporting gun from matchlock, via the flintlock and 'percussion' systems, to early breech-loading shotguns.

**Friday March 12th *Finstock Families 1600-1750***. A talk by David Sturdy, based on evidence from wills and other legal documents. Did your relations live in the village 300 years ago? Who did?

The **Downside Up** drinks party held at Lower Farm Ramsden by Richard and Ratty Lord in November raised £1400!

## Woodpecker Pre-school

Last term we had to say fond farewells to Georgina Guy, who joins her brother at Finstock C. of E. School, and Fiona Watts, Rozi Lowe and Tom Wellesley, who all left due to changes in their circumstances. They will all be greatly missed and we wish them all the best wherever they may be. This term's theme is *Sharing* and we will be looking at various scenarios of this; i.e. home, friends, classroom and pre-schools, libraries and museums. We will also continue looking at *colours* and begin to look at *letters* – just one a week, to learn that *letters* make *words* and to start to familiarise ourselves with all the different shapes of letters.

We would like to also take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support in buying our raffle tickets for our Christmas Draw, which raised just under £200. Also belated thanks to Jo and Jon Oldham, from The Royal Oak in Ramsden, and Richard and Ratty Lord, who last November organised a Firework Display in Ramsden and kindly donated the £140 raised to our Pre-school. So many thanks to them and all who supported the event. Just recently we have been replacing and updating our outside play equipment, and we have been using the firework display money and the monies raised from Foxbury Farm to fund this project. We also purchased a grand mixture of musical instruments for the children to practise their talents on - much to their enjoyment. Hopefully, in the near future, we will be looking inside, particularly in the home corner; the money raised over Christmas will help to support this venture.

As always, if you would like more information regarding Woodpecker Pre-school please do not hesitate to telephone Jane Walker-Tudge, Pre-school Supervisor, on

Lesley Dore

## Conservative

### Association (Finstock)

The Annual General Meeting of the Finstock, Leafield and Ramsden Association will take place in the Ramsden Memorial Hall at 7.30pm on Friday February 13th. All members are invited to attend. Those wishing to join the Conservative Party, please contact Philip Foxwood at Ann's Cottage, Lower End, Ramsden Tel: 868592. There will be drinks and refreshments after the meeting.

Philip Foxwood

## Finstock WI

We enter 2004 with a strong group of 26 active members and look forward to another interesting and enjoyable year of talks, discussions and other activities.

On February 10th (at 2pm) Mary Castell will give us the benefit of her long experience with sheep in a talk entitled *The Golden Fleece*. Visitors are very welcome.

On March 11th we have our AGM at our *summer* meeting time of 7.30pm. Meetings are held in the Village Hall. For membership details, call the secretary Kitty Turner on 868752.

*Women blink nearly twice  
as much as men.*

# Recycling Special Collection Schedule

**February 8th** – cardboard, which includes cereal boxes, toilet roll and paper towel centres, sleeves on ready meals, other boxes, etc. Remember all cardboard can be shredded and added to your compost heap, as well. **March 7th** – plastic bottles from water, milk, shampoo, washing-up liquid, etc. **April 4th** – green garden waste.

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**Finstock will have recycling boxes collected weekly beginning in April.** The increased number of items to be collected will include plastics, cardboard, aerosols and batteries plus the current list of paper, glass, cans, aluminium foil and textiles.

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**A cloth carrier bag for every household in the Finstock area will be delivered to your door during the first week of February! Break that plastic bag habit, carry cloth.**

**A litre of petrol** takes 23.5 tonnes of ancient, buried plants to produce. Less than one part in 10,000 of the organic matter becomes oil because the carbon is lost back to the atmosphere through decomposition. The *Environment Agency* suggests that if every driver took one fewer car journey a week, average nine miles, it would cut carbon dioxide emissions from traffic by 13%.

**The Environment Agency says that the British throw away an extra 2.5m tonnes of rubbish generated by Christmas!**

**Brita water filters** recycle only their own brand of cartridges, an enterprising Finstock family has informed Finstock Recycling. These can be sent as a minimum quantity of six to: Brita Care Customer Services, Brita Water Filter Systems Ltd, FREEPOST TK1917, Sunbury-on-Thames, TW16 5BR. Perhaps this should be a Finstock community project.

**WODC arranged for old Christmas trees to be collected** from around the district, shredded by the Council's landscape maintenance team and used as mulch on local amenity areas. The **Christmas card recycling campaign** was run by WODC for the second year. Last year 157,143 cards (1.1 tonnes) were recycled. Following this result, CLEANAWAY, a global waste management and recycling company, donated money to the Hailey Community Woodland Project. The Council is pleased to announce that CLEANAWAY will continue to support conservation effort projects, through the Wychwood Project, and will donate money for every 1,000 cards collected before the end of January 2004. Christmas card collection points include: Witney (Welch Way car park), Charlbury (Spendlove Centre car park). The cards will be recycled by SITA in Enstone.

**Robbie Warden** has moved from West Oxfordshire to work at Cherwell District Council as Waste Policy and Recycling Officer. Finstock Recycling has enjoyed working with him since our formation. Our new contact at West Oxfordshire District Council is **Georgina Davis**, Waste Policy and Recycling Manager, Tel: 861393, [georgina.davis@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:georgina.davis@westoxon.gov.uk).

**The Billion Dollar Marine Project** During the past three years, more than 300 scientists from 53 countries identified three new species each week. They believe there are 15,304 species of fish in the sea and as many as 210,000 other varieties of marine life. ([coml.org/medres/medres5.htm](http://coml.org/medres/medres5.htm))

**The Aluminium Packaging Recycling** (Alupro) and six Oxfordshire local authorities including Oxfordshire County Council and WODC, are running a campaign to recycle aluminium drinks cans and aluminium foil. A tree will be donated for every tonne (worth over £500) of aluminium collected during a year-long national campaign running to the end of June 2004. Recycling

aluminium saves 95% of the energy used in making it from the raw materials. All the trees planted will be two-year old, cell-grown saplings of species which are native to the UK, including oak, ash, rowan, hazel, field maple and Scot pine.

**The Pub Recycling collection trials in the district** will not spread to include all pubs and businesses that produce large quantities of bottles.

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**Ramsden is now officially part of Finstock Recycling.**

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## New recycling collections

From April 2004 West Oxfordshire's recycling service will be expanded. 1) The current fortnightly kerbside recycling collection service will be weekly and on the same day as the refuse collection. 2) Each household will receive an additional recycling box – these will be delivered from mid-February onwards throughout the district. 3) It will now be possible to recycle plastics, cardboard, aerosols and batteries, in addition to the already existing recycling collection materials, which are: paper, glass, cans, aluminium foil and textiles.

In West Oxfordshire we currently recycle 12% of our waste, but recycling targets for next year are set at 18% and it is expected that they will be at least 30% by 2010.

Georgina Davis

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- Full range of quality local: meats, eggs, vegetables, bread, cheese, preserves, cakes, crafts etc. etc.

## Letters to the Editor

Sent to Jon Carpenter as contact for the Finstock Local History Society, these two letters (shown in part) may bring back memories for some in Finstock. *Finstock News* will be happy to supply internet access for those without a computer to respond to these queries.

**I am researching the US military hospitals in the United Kingdom during WWII** including where they were located and something of their history. Whilst searching through the Oxfordshire Records Office recently I saw a reference to the Finstock LHS. I am contacting you in the hope that the Society or one of its members has information on US Army units, particularly hospital units, which were stationed in the area around Finstock and Ramsden Heath in 1944.

Tony Honeyman [tony@tjklhoneyman.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:tony@tjklhoneyman.fsnet.co.uk)

### *Finstock News* 2003 Summary

Chris Turner has provided an *Independent Examiner's Statement* for the *Finstock News*, which details our expenses and receipts for the 2003 year. Chris has provided our annual statement since the *Newsletter* started three years ago; we thank him very much for this voluntary contribution.

The *Finstock News* publishes six issues each year. The Editorial Committee had nine members voluntarily working for the *Newsletter* at one time or another during the year. We have fifteen distributors who deliver the *Newsletter* to homes in Finstock, Fawler, Wilcote, Mt Skippett and Finstock Heath. Additional distribution list includes our District and County Councillors and our MP, David Cameron. We give copies to seventeen other individuals or organisations, including 24 copies to the School for students who live outside Finstock and the teachers, our PC Richard Conner, the doctor's surgery, The Crown, The Plough, The Royal Oak and Hilltop. All together we have 520 copies of the *Newsletter* printed. We earned more money than last year through advertising and donations, notably the Fawler donation of £92! John Wells is our

hard working advertising guru and we thank him for his successful efforts! Our expenses were slightly less this year than last. To review the accounts in full contact Joy Murphy on 868575.

The policy of the *Finstock News* is to serve the community. We welcome your articles, poetry, pictures, comments, opinions and advertising. We try to accommodate everyone but request that submitted material be kept to fewer than 300 words. We look forward to 2004 and lower production costs thanks to the curiosity and negotiating skills of Tony Hirstenstein, our layout and production expert. Elise Bayley stepped down from her post of sub-editor part way through the year and Nicky Higgins stepped in to check spelling and grammar. Barbara Pensom is rejoining us in 2004 to provide a final review of every issue, and hopefully prevent the obvious errors that occurred in our last issue. *Of the village, by the village, for the village* is our motto. Thank you for your continued support.

Joy Murphy Editor

**DEADLINE FOR APRIL/MAY ISSUE IS MARCH 1ST**

### THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

|  |        |             |
|--|--------|-------------|
| Tony Hirstenstein  | 868600 | Layout      |
| Joy Murphy   | 868575 | Editor      |
| <a href="mailto:nickjoy@beechgrove63.fsnet.co.uk">nickjoy@beechgrove63.fsnet.co.uk</a> |        |             |
| Nicky Higgins  | 868425 | Proofing    |
| Mike Peck  | 868735 | Member      |
| Jean Vick  | 868555 | Member      |
| John Wells   | 868968 | Advertising |
| Pete Welply  | 868140 | Member      |

Photography provided by Chris Turner and Kim Reed

Read the *Finstock News* online; visit *Finstock Website* at [www.finstock.org.uk](http://www.finstock.org.uk)

**I have just come across your website** and wonder if you or other members of the Finstock Local History Society can provide me with some information regarding the US Army's presence in the area during World War II. I have been told that, prior to D-Day, Ramsden Heath was the site of our army's largest Transportation Corps vehicle pool in Great Britain. Can anyone verify this for me? I have searched for some time for some reference to the existence of this military post without success. If anyone can substantiate it, does he or she recall what the actual military designation was (e.g. '211th Transportation Battalion')?

During January-February 1945, I was recovering from a combat wound at US Army 317th Station Hospital, which was at that time on the Heath just up the road from Finstock. I would very much like to know if anyone has a photograph (or photographs) of either or both of these two wartime installations. I would gladly pay to have them photocopied for me. Likewise, if anyone is aware of other photographs, I would very much like to know where they can be accessed. Thank you very much in advance for any help you can provide.

Donald B. Straith, [Dbstraith@aol.com](mailto:Dbstraith@aol.com),  
101st Airborne Div., World War II

## COTSWOLD PLUMBING AND HEATING

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Bathrooms

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Poultry, Fruit, Vegetables,  
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Bread,  
Apple Juice, Milk,  
Cold Meats, Cream, Butter,  
Eggs,  
Home-Made Cakes, Pies,  
Preserves, Ready Made  
Meals, Flour suitable for  
bread making machines**

**SMALL ADS**

(All numbers start with 01993 unless otherwise stated)

**Steve and Iain Behind Bars**

Outside bar. Any occasion.

Tel: Steve on 868576 or Iain on 779017 (mobile 07775-880997)

**Individual English Language Tuition**

for pupils/students at primary and secondary level: Key Stage 1 to A level.

English Language and Literature.

Contact: Fleur Iggulden M.A. Cert Ed.

Tel: 878276 (Mon-Fri 9.30-5.30 pm) [fleur@iggulden7.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:fleur@iggulden7.freeserve.co.uk).

**The Body Shop at Home** - call Amanda

Osborne on 868452 and ask for a catalogue.

No need to drive into town, **buy all your animal, pet, and bird products cheaper at:**

M & J Harris, Shinfield, Poffley End, Hailey Tel: 702407

Airports, race meetings, social occasions. **Chauffeur-driven hire**, 7

passengers, owner/driver.

Ron Kirk on 883633

Advance bookings preferable.

Use the **Village Hall** for your next event.

Contact Sue Salter on 868647

**Pub News**

**Wilkinson will kick The Crown into touch!**

If music be the food of love, read on.... 2004 will see Gail and Nick Wilkinson from NorthYorkshire joining the Foxbury Team, along with Andy and Sara who have been keeping the drinks flowing while I have been recruiting a new chef. Gail has experience of catering for the local rugby team to being head chef at an award winning hotel, which like The Crown specialized in British Pub Food using local ingredients. Nick and Gail will be "living in" and they are looking forward to being part of the community.

Food will be back on the menu from February, so watch the boards outside the pub for special events. The Crown will be closed Sunday evenings until the end of the winter.

Colin Dawes

**Pub Team Games** The domino Duns Tew League team and the Woodstock League team are both at mid-table. No other results are available at this time.

Anyone who wishes to contribute to the Fund should give cash or cheques payable to *Finstock and Fawler War Memorial Fund* to me, Frank Schofield (Hon.Treasurer), at No 3 Well Hill, next to the Village Hall (on the right as you face the Hall). Contributors will be given a receipt and all donations will be paid into the bank account. To date, contributions have been coming in steadily, particularly from Fawler, and we have reached just over half the amount required.

Frank Schofield

**Finstock and Fawler War Memorial**

A meeting was held on November 12th with Roy Townsend, Parish Council Chairman, and John Best, Parish Councillor, to discuss the re-lettering and, if necessary, re-cutting of names. As a result of this meeting and the Parish Council's approval, a contract has been issued to Didcock Funeral Services, Chipping Norton for the work. Both Councillors were definitely opposed to the cleaning of the stonework and said that the weathered appearance was eminently suitable for a village War Memorial. The sum required for the re-lettering is £210 plus VAT. It was thought that a limited appeal should be made on a personal basis to those who have shown a long-term interest in the renovation of the War Memorial.

I also felt that, in view of the fact that cars have been parked on the grassed area by the War Memorial, we should contemplate the placing of a permanent and substantial notice in the name of the Parish Council banning this practice. (This matter has not yet been discussed by the Parish Council.) We also considered whether it would be advisable to have a low chain barrier and posts around the War Memorial, but at the recent Parish Council meeting it was decided that only hardwood posts should be erected with no linking chain. If the sum raised by the proposed limited appeal was in excess of the money required it was thought that it could be used for a notice and possibly posts.

## NOTICE BOARD

### CCLRC – Rutherford Appleton Laboratory Public Lectures

Friday February 13th at 7pm ***What is nanotechnology?*** Explore the world of the very small with Professor Tony Ryan of Sheffield University. Recommended age 11 and over.

Friday March 12th at 7pm ***Creating Faces*** with Dr Caroline Wilkinson, facial anthropologist of Manchester Museum. The process of facial reconstruction allows us to imagine the appearance of an individual from the skeletal remains. Recommended age 9 and over. *Warning: pictures of human remains will be shown in this lecture.*

To reserve a place at any of the lectures, please contact Lisa Faircloth on 01235-445789.

**Open Afternoons** provide an opportunity to find out more about some of the amazing science and engineering taking place at this working laboratory. Suitable for age 16 years and over.

**Space Science and Technology** Wednesday March 24th (1.30pm–4.30pm) With significant involvement in over 40 missions including Beagle-2, SMART-1 (first European mission to the Moon), Envisat and GERB, the Space Science and Technology department is at the forefront of UK space research. Admission is free but places are limited for the open afternoons. If you would like to reserve a place, please contact Emma Gilgunn-Jones on 01235-445553.

**WODC has been allocated in excess of £2.9 million pounds for affordable housing.** This allocation will fund new developments of 14 affordable homes at Milton under Wychwood, and 59 affordable homes on the NE Witney development.

**Volunteer Drivers Urgently Needed** for Volunteer Link-Up which runs a transport scheme for elderly, disabled or frail people covering Witney, Carterton and the surrounding area. Contact Anne, Alison or Ruth, Volunteer Link-Up, Methodist Church Centre, 10 Wesley Walk, Witney. Tel/fax: 776277. [westoxonvb@freeuk.com](mailto:westoxonvb@freeuk.com)

**A grant of £1,500 has been awarded to the North and West Oxfordshire Carers Centre by WODC,** to continue providing support to Carers in the area. The Centre is an independent charity providing information, advice and support to those looking after someone who because of illness, disability or frailty cannot manage without help.

**Witney Minor Injuries Unit remains open for consultation and treatment of minor injuries as usual from 10am–11pm.**

**A caseworker, Eleanor Cowan, has been appointed by the Citizens Advice Bureau** to help bring advisory services to elderly residents and those in sheltered accommodation in West Oxfordshire. This new post is funded by a grant from the European funded LEADER+ programme and the Legal Services Commission.

**The draft Community Strategy for West Oxfordshire** has been approved by a Forum of stakeholders in the District including public sector organisations like the Police and Health providers, voluntary organisations, business and commerce and local authorities etc., and is now available for public consultation and comment. The Community Strategy has been written by the West Oxfordshire Strategic Partnership (WOSP). It identifies what is special about West Oxfordshire, the key issues that will impact on the quality of life in the District over the next few years, and what we think can be done about them. It focuses particularly on those issues where partnership working can make a difference. Comments on the draft Strategy are invited. These can be sent to West Oxfordshire Strategic Partnership, c/o Chief Executive, West Oxfordshire District Council, Woodgreen, Witney, OX28 1NB, or emailed to [sarah.kibble@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.kibble@westoxon.gov.uk). A copy of the draft Strategy can be seen on the Council's website: [www.westoxon.gov.uk/yourcouncil/community.cfm](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/yourcouncil/community.cfm)

The LEADER+ programme is administered by West Oxfordshire Network, a partnership of local businesses, government and community organisations. They are able to offer grants of up to 50% of costs for innovative community-led projects which meet local needs. Interested groups or organisations are encouraged to apply for details.

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### Good Time to Live in Finstock

A happy and hopefully more peaceful time for us all in 2004. Fewer night flights, slower traffic, restoration of derelict properties, more neighbourly home extensions, and most importantly a few more affordable starter homes for our young people. Somehow it is so hard to get agreement and action on apparently simple suggestions like a footpath to the halt for the regular band of devotees. Still we are fortunate to have the minibus to the station in addition to our reliable regular bus service. Council tax and European matters will doubtless figure in June elections: so rather than whinge let's get our share of the funding available, for example to promote a successful Village Festival, and show just how much fun can be had sandwiched between the great celebrations of Blenheim and Cornbury.

Mike Breakell District Councillor

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**The North Cotswold Chamber Choir** series of concerts for 2004. The choir is made up of local singers, performing a wide range of music to an extremely high standard. For more information about the choir please see our website [www.nc3.org.uk](http://www.nc3.org.uk).

**Love Songs** – a concert for Valentine's Day – Saturday February 14th 2004 at 7.30pm, Chipping Norton Town Hall. Tickets: £8; concessions £6; and £3 under 14s. Contact [tickets@nc3.org.uk](mailto:tickets@nc3.org.uk)

An informal concert, for romantics everywhere featuring love songs new and old. Ticket price includes cheese and wine.

## Three Villages Shop Association Report

At the time of the TVSA annual meeting last October, we had hoped to initiate the work to renovate the Crown stables well before Christmas, with the possibility of it being completed by the end of this month (January). In the event, the tenders received from the four local builders that had confirmed their interest in doing this work were substantially higher than our cost targets and well beyond the level of funding available.

We have discussed this problem with Greene King, owners of the stables, and together we are examining other approaches to the stable renovation. This is bound to take some time but we are doing all we can to move things forward and the funding bodies are also doing their best to accommodate the delay.

Chris Turner on behalf of the TVSA Management Committee.

## Broadband Meeting at WODC with David Cameron, MP

I certainly found the meeting helpful in clarifying some of the issues and working out what needs to be done next – and I hope that you found it beneficial too. I was particularly glad that we had representatives from the District and County Councils and the South East of England Development Agency (SEEDA), as well as BT.

I would repeat what I said on the night – we owe a huge debt to the local campaigners across the county who have worked so hard to reach demanding trigger levels.

This is clearly a vital issue and I am keen to do what I can to help. This letter is being sent to all the bodies mentioned above as well as other attendees and I will collate and

circulate the information that I receive in response. In addition, I will continue to raise this issue with the Government and in Parliament.

If there is anything else that I can do to support local broadband campaigns, or take up particular cases with BT or others, do not hesitate to let me know. David Cameron MP

[www.davidcameronmp.com](http://www.davidcameronmp.com)

We have reached the BT required number of interested parties which will trigger broadband for our area. We are now on another list!

## Internet Interest

[www.socitm.gov.uk](http://www.socitm.gov.uk) Society of Information Technology Management  
[www.fsa.gov.uk](http://www.fsa.gov.uk) is the Financial Services Authority

[www.disability.gov.uk](http://www.disability.gov.uk)

[www.justask.org.uk](http://www.justask.org.uk) Community Legal Service

[www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk)

[www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk) is good

[www.tiger.gov.uk](http://www.tiger.gov.uk) designed to provide a user friendly guide to different aspects of UK employment law

[www.dsa.gov.uk](http://www.dsa.gov.uk) Driving Standards Agency where you can book a driving test online and run a dummy theory test

[www.nikmakris.com](http://www.nikmakris.com) addresses the *Disability Discrimination Act 1995* noting that organisations and business must comply with the *Act* prior to October 2004 if they are to accommodate people with a disability. An Access Audit is recommended.

Companies using websites that throw up barriers to those with disabilities could be asked to defend their design in court.

The number of text messages sent in the UK reached a record high of 1.74bn in September according to the Mobile Data Association.

The number of text messages sent in the UK reached a record high of 1.74bn in September according to the Mobile Data Association.

## House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*)

**The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) has set up a House Sparrow Working Group to focus research efforts across the various organisations working on this issue.**

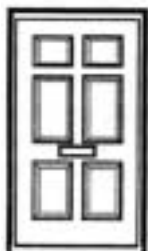
A recent survey showed that the population of house sparrows has fallen from about twelve million pairs in the early 1970's to between six and seven million pairs now. This information was based on information gathered from 11,269 gardens scattered across Britain and,

to a lesser extent, Ireland, including a garden in Finstock. House sparrows were more likely to occur at sites where there were gaps in the roof. Since house sparrows usually nest in cavities (they will also build nests in thick bushes and climbers) the association with gaps in the roof may be expected.

Lack of suitable nest sites in homes built after the 1970's are caused by the designs of roofing tiles and uPVC barge-boards which restrict access to the roof space and offer fewer nesting opportunities. Garden size was found to have a significant effect on whether sparrows were present in a garden, with small gardens more strongly associated with the presence of house sparrows than medium-sized gardens, which in turn had a greater

influence than large gardens. They are more likely to occur at those sites where food was provided all-year round than at those where feeding only took place occasionally or not at all. House sparrows prefer mixed seed and scraps to peanuts. The presence of different types and heights of vegetation (evergreen versus deciduous) appears to have no effect on the presence of house sparrows. Reduced food availability may be caused by the loss of brownfield sites which are important sources of seeds and invertebrates, the increased use of pesticides in many gardens or increased competition with other species like collared doves, feral pigeons and gulls. (*Bird Table – The Magazine of Garden BirdWatch Winter 2003*)

PURPOSE MADE  
JOINERY  
HARD  
&  
SOFTWOOD



It was lovely to see so many people in Church over the Christmas period. The Church was full for the crib service with lots of excited children and the midnight service had a very special quality this year, and so we dare to look into the New Year with great hope for the future.

## Garden Lovers Group

After two quiet months in the garden, it is good to realise that we can soon begin to put into action some of the plans we have made for our spring and summer gardens and look forward to the first appearance of snowdrops. If anyone is interested in snowdrops, Simon Biddulph, co-owner of Rodmarton Manor Gardens, Glos. will conduct a tour of the impressive mid-winter display of snowdrops there. He will give advice on how to grow them successfully and point out snowdrop cultivars. This event will take place on Feb. 7th at 1.30pm. Tel: 020-7821-3408.

If you haven't yet pruned apple and pear trees, February is the last month to do so. Cut back ornamental grasses and perennials left for winter interest as well. Many summer or late flowering deciduous shrubs can be pruned between January and March. Concentrate on removing overcrowded growth, crossing stems, dead or dying branches. Cut back *Salix* and *Cornus*. Prune back hard all the previous season's growth to within 1-2 inches (2.5-5cms) of the framework. The ever needy *Buddleia davidii*, *Hydrangea paniculata*, hardy *Fuchsia* and *Ceanothus* may need pruning, too. Delay pruning spring flowering shrubs until after they have flowered. In March, sowing starts, particularly of vegetable crops. Summer bedding plant seeds can be sown in heated propagators, under glass or on warm windowsills.

We hope that by now you have made your plans for your summer gardens, many of you might be encouraged to open your gardens for the Finstock Festival. If you are willing to do so, please contact Mo 869268 so that we can begin to make plans to make it a really good and fun event. There must be many beautiful gardens big and small in Finstock that will be well worth showing off!

Mo Pickett

By this time next year, the alterations in the Church will be complete, and no longer will children have to be taken outside to use a non-existent loo, but there will be toilet facilities inside the church and this of course will also mean that the elderly will no longer have to fear the length of a sermon, for they too will know that facilities are available, and just think of all those people travelling long distances to funerals.

In case you have any doubts about the necessity of providing facilities in Church ask yourselves the question, would you send your children to a school which had no inside toilet or would you expect your elderly relatives

to sit in a cold, damp building? The Church in Finstock is a fine Victorian building which has been added to and altered throughout its short life, not least when the gallery was removed because of the bad behaviour of the choir and other musicians who used to throw nut shells down on the unsuspecting people below. It is probably the best public building in Finstock and so we must look after it and use it not as a monument but as a vibrant and important meeting place, which can be accessed by all ages for worship and other activities. Thank you for all your help and support. Together we move forward.

Rev. Jane Knowles

## THE WINE COLUMN - The *Finstock News* Wine Competition won by Kim Reed.

We had 20 people enter the *Finstock News* Christmas wine competition, drawn at the Plough on December 18th. Five entries were fully correct and another four had just one wrong answer. *Finstock News* donated three prizes and the three winners, drawn from the five correct entries, were as follows:

1st prize, magnum of *Chateau Auris Corbieres*, went to Kim Reed.

2nd prize, bottle of Hardys Nottage Hill *Cabernet/Shiraz*, went to Robbie Robinson.

3rd prize, bottle of Out of Africa *Cabernet/Pionatage* went to Jason Clark.

The answers to the questions were:

- 1d. Claret is a British name for red wine from the Bordeaux region.
- 2b. Hermitage is a great red from the northern Rhone region.
- 3a. Chablis is a leading white wine from the Burgundy region.
- 4d. Tuscany is where the now highly regarded Chianti red is made.
- 5a. Grange, recognised as "the" classic Australian red is made by Penfold.
- 6c. Dao is in Portugal, the other three are prime regions in Spain.
- 7b. Napa is in North America, the other three are in South America. This question appears to have been the most difficult. (Casablanca is a wine region in Chile, making excellent white wine, look for it on the back labels)
- 8b. Bacchus makes good white wine, especially in England. The others make red.
- 9c. Most people knew their (tawny) port from their sherry.
- 10c. The easiest question. 1500ml or 2 standard bottles, the amount given as 1st prize.

Well done the winners, enjoy your prizes and thanks to all who entered.

Chris Turner

*The price of a second class stamp is to increase by 1p to 21p in April. First class stamps will remain at 28p.*



## Finstock Festival July 4th-10th - Update

Good News! We heard on Christmas Eve that **we have secured funding for the festival from the Community Champions Fund**. No details are available at the time of writing but we'll know more following our meeting with the Oxfordshire Council for Voluntary Action (OCVA) who have agreed to sponsor us.

### Calling all Finstock Writers!

On Tuesday July 6th we are planning an evening to celebrate writers of Finstock. So far we have a list of 10 current residents who have published books and I shall be writing to you to seek your views on how you would like your work represented. Please could you contact me to confirm that I have your name, or to add yourself (or someone you know of) to the list?

### Singing and Playing

There will be a lot of music during the festival and we are looking for a wide range of residents who can sing and/or play all sorts of different types of music. **NO AUDITIONS REQUIRED**. Events will include: Singing madrigals and other part songs, and sacred music as part of the Festival Service (Sunday 4th), music for the pub night (Monday 5th), concert as part of the writers' evening

(Tuesday 6th), children's concert (Wednesday 7th), Old Time Music Hall (Thursday 8th), teenagers' night (Friday 9th), and local bands, individuals or small groups for early evening on Saturday (10th) before the Barn Dance.

Please contact me about any of the above if you would like to take part. All contributions gratefully received! Ruth Nissim, tel. 868147, [dorescottage@hotmail.com](mailto:dorescottage@hotmail.com).

### Calling All Artists and Craftspeople

During the week of the FINSTOCK FESTIVAL there is to be an EXHIBITION OF LOCAL ARTS AND CRAFTS. If you have any artwork that you have created – pictures, photos, embroideries, ceramics, etc – that you would like to be included in the Exhibition, please contact Pamela McDowell on 868919 or by email to [pmcdowell@oxfree.com](mailto:pmcdowell@oxfree.com).

## Festival meetings

**February 9th; March 8th; April 5th.**

All meetings start at 8pm in the Plough. Everyone is welcome.

### Horse Passports

Under the *Horse Passports (England) Regulations 2003*, every horse (which includes ponies, donkeys and other equidae) in England must have a full passport containing the veterinary medicines pages (*section IX*) by June 30 2004. The European Commission *Decision 2000/68/EC* applies throughout the European Union. The objective of the legislation is to protect the health of those who eat horsemeat by preventing horses entering the human food chain if they have been administered with any medicines that are not intended for use on food producing animals. In addition, the equine industry believes that other benefits will be realised if all horses have a passport to discourage the indiscriminate breeding of horses and ponies that may be of low quality or value. A requirement of the new legislation is that a passport must accompany a horse being sold. A list of recognised societies that have been authorized to issue passports can be found on the DEFRA website at: [www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/tracing/horses/horses\\_index.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/tracing/horses/horses_index.htm). If you do not have access to the Internet, information may be obtained from the DEFRA helpline Tel: 08459-335577

## Finstock Villagers between 1246 and 1272

(continued from *FN 21*)

Between 1246 and 1256 "William Harald of Finstock, caught with oak outside the desmesne" found as sureties Richard Le Prest of Wilcote and Ralph Gode of Ramsden". He was not the only one. Walter in angulo, Geoffrey Harald and Joel of Finstock, were all caught stealing oak, while Walter of Ramsden of Finstock limited himself to taking hazel. There appear to have been some cosy agreements between villagers, since Walter in angulo, stood as surety for John le Cupere of Wilcote, who had in turn acted as surety for Geoffrey Harald of Finstock. In 1272 a group of men from the neighbouring villages, not only took wood from the forest but set up a charcoal burning business. This could have proved profitable, if they had not been arrested, since charcoal was used for cooking and smelting.

"It was presented and found by all the ministers of the forest that John le Wyte of Ditchley, Hugh son of Nicholas of the same, John Harold of Finstock, Humphrey son of Ralph of Ramsden (2s), Gilbert Cross of the same (12d), Richard of Hanborough in Ramsden are habitual wrongdoers to the vert, as much in the desmesne woods of the lord King as in the woods of others in the forest, both by day and night. They are also charcoal burners in the same, without warrant: who came and being convicted regarding this are in prison". Since Ralph and Gilbert have sums of money written against their names, it would seem that they had already made arrangements to pay their fines. William Harold of Finstock was fined two shillings for charcoal burning and William of Finstock the value of two pigs (two shillings), because his pigs were "found within the covert in the Forbidden month."

The most serious transgression related to Nicholas King of Tapwell in Finstock and Thomas son of Henry Clerk of Ascott, who "are evildoers to the venison etc. They did not come and were not attached (apprehended or arrested, especially for contempt of court) because they were not found. Therefore to be exacted (the payment and enforcement of a penalty demanded) (and) outlawed. Afterwards Nicholas came and was committed to prison. Afterwards he was pardoned by the King because his is very poor." Perhaps he was young and led astray by this foreigner from Ascott, or perhaps, and more likely, it was not worth holding him in prison because he did not have the means to pay a fine?

From the personal correspondence of Mary Castell and Beryl Schumer who wrote *Wychwood – The Evolution of a Wooded Landscape*.

Looking back, Christmas certainly seems very distant. The toy sale was a resounding success and raised approximately £110. Children left school that evening labouring under their loads of carrier bags dreaming of the time that they would spend playing with their new acquisitions. The money raised will go towards providing three water purification plants for families in Africa. Thank you.

Class 3 spent five sessions with Simon Fullylove learning all about the Old Testament in a unique way. The stories are remembered through words and hand signs. The class then gave the school a presentation of what they had learned in assembly.

The children spent the last few weeks of the autumn term rehearsing their parts for the production of *The Christmas*

**David Cameron MP** spoke in the House of Commons during the second reading of the *Child Trust Funds Bill*.

Known as the Government's *Baby Bonds* proposal, these trust funds will be opened for all children born after September 2002. The Government will contribute £250 into each account (or £500 for less well off families) and families will be encouraged to save for their children. Up to £1,200 will be able to be saved in the accounts each year without attracting tax. The aim of Baby Bonds is to encourage saving, particularly among the less well off. David suggested that the *Child Trust Funds* could be reformed to give more help to families with disabled children.



*Dove and the Woodcutter*. My doubts about whether the show would go on were kept to myself. Perhaps, we might do the songs only! These fears were all unfounded as the drama began to unfold and everything took shape. The atmosphere was electric at both churches where there was standing room only. Families were spellbound as the drama and singing filled the whole

David drew on his experience, and that of many other parents of disabled children who have visited his surgery, to discuss the difficulties and costs of bringing up disabled children.

Details of the CTF and how it will work are now available: *Detailed Proposals for the Child Trust Fund (PDF 282K)*; *Summary Factsheet and Q&A (PDF 292K)*; Details of earlier consultation on the CTF (*Savings and Assets for All and Delivering Savings and Assets*) are available on the HMT Treasury web site.

space. Many good things were said and the true meaning of Christmas felt.

In the last week of this term, we were very pleased to welcome **Lady Rotherwick of Cornbury Park who formally cut the ribbon officially opening the new Finstock School classroom.** (Please see picture.) I'm sure everyone present felt relieved that all the planning over the last year had finally come to fruition. The opening was a very pleasant event which allowed us to look around the classroom and spend some time with the children.

Parties and Christmas dinner seemed to fill the remainder of the last week and the children and staff went home tired but happy. We're looking forward to a quiet time next term! ... But school life is anything but that.

Paul Barnett Headteacher

New Hanborough Leisure and Skateboard Park opened in November after three years of work. In addition to play facilities the park provides a picnic and leisure area for families and older residents. Trees and wild flowers have been planted and it will be used by Long Hanborough Primary School to encourage children to learn about science and conservation. Contributions have come from many sources, including £14,000 from the European funded LEADER+ programme; £12,000 from WREN, £9,000 from West Oxfordshire District Council's Playground grants; £8,500 from Hanborough Parish Council; £1,000 from Community Against Drugs; £750 from the County Council Youth Service; and £650 from Parish fundraising.

## Friends of Finstock School (FOFS)

### Another New Year, starting with a diary full of dates for fund-raising and social events.

Coming up in March we have the annual **Craft Fair to be held on March 20th**. We will be back on the School site for this event this year, which we hope to be bigger and better than ever. By the time this goes to press, we will have just had another Pub Quiz down at the Plough. Who knows, you may have been a part of the winning team or have picked up a prize in the raffle instead! More news of that in a later issue.

A small but significant part of FOFS income has come from the 100 Club over the years. Sadly this is dwindling

as families move on and fewer new families get involved. And the 100 Club is really so very simple - you just "buy" a number (or more, if you're keen) for £12 per year. Every month numbers are drawn and prizes awarded - but to make it worthwhile we do need more participants (currently it's more like the 50 club!). You don't have to be involved with the school to take part, so if you'd like a regular flutter, with much better odds than Lotto, then do get in touch with a member of the committee.

Finally, a note on the end of term Carols and Mince Pie session that was

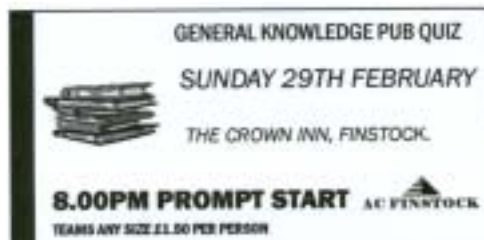
held in the School hall on December 10th. Not a huge event in terms of numbers, it did however realise approx. £70 towards the funds, which equates well with previous years, when a similar amount has been raised by proceeding around the village, complete with lanterns and collecting tins, etc. I rather missed that traditional "shiver and sing" that always appears on so many images of Christmas but now seems to be on the wane - I'd be interested to know if anybody else feels the same - there's at least eleven months to get into good voice for this year! Pete Welply

## Between The Posts

### AC FINSTOCK 1st Team - The Season so Far

The new era for AC FINSTOCK started brightly with the addition of a reserve side and many new faces coming along showing an interest in playing for either side.

This has had its teething problems for the managers trying to fit new faces into the teams, having not seen them play. Unavailability of players every week has meant constant change to the line-ups and consistency has been lacking in some performances. Hopefully, now that the holiday period is over and a squad system is in place, the running of the two sides should become easier.



The competitive season started on a downturn with a defeat to Milton in the Wychwood Cup losing 2-1. A heavy defeat to Ducklington (5-0) is not getting the league season off to a much better start, although by all accounts it was 20 minutes of madness as new players were adapting to playing with each other. The following week saw a change in management with Derek Bennett taking over from Andy

Picture taken in the Crown field, from the back forward from left to right:-

Percy Pratley (Dobber), Claridge (brother of Bucky), Frank Hutt.

Henry Kite, E.Timms (Timmo), Tommy Cox,

George Rowles, Harold Langford, Alick Pratley, Harry Dore, Bert Dells

Non-players Top row: Harry Williams (Whacker), Stevie Franklin, Francis Hunt, Ernest Wiggins (Mr.Mink); Next row: Mr.Hoanbuckle (teacher), Mr.Franklin, Sam Dells; Next row: Mr.Shilson, Mr Welton.

N Sullivan

Compton running the first team with Mark Johnson still in the assistant position. This started a period of three consecutive wins with a good performance against Fieldtown coming away with a 5-1 win, a home win to Spartan Rangers 3-1 and another away win to Spartan this time winning 4-1. Back down to earth we came losing to Spartan Rangers First team in the Fred Ford Cup and North Leigh in the league. Carterton Town were next, a good side and it showed with them going into a 2-0 lead but the Finstock side has added something to itself this year, which is a belief and a stubbornness that even when the chips are down they come back fighting. A goal apiece from Mark Johnson and Simon Williams earned a well-deserved draw against a side that will be right up there at the end of the season.

As of this moment the leading goal scorer is young Luke Simmonds with four goals in five games with the team sitting in third place in the league.

There are now a number of local lads taking part for both teams so if you've got a spare 90 minutes on a Saturday afternoon why not come along and support – it's always interesting!!

Derek Bennett

#### AC Finstock Results

##### 1st XI

| Date     | Opponents        | F | A |
|----------|------------------|---|---|
| 1/11/03  | Union Street     | 3 | 4 |
| 8/11/03  | Witney Wanderers | 4 | 2 |
| 15/11/03 | Eynsham A        | 3 | 1 |
| 22/11/03 | Tackley          | 2 | 4 |
| 29/11/03 | Brize Norton Res | P | P |
| 6/12/03  | North Leigh B    | 1 | 3 |
| 13/12/03 | FC Nomads        | 1 | 0 |
| 20/12/03 | Witney Wanderers | 0 | 4 |
| 10/1/04  | Eynsham A        | 1 | 3 |
| 17/1/04  | FC Nomads        |   |   |
| 24/1/04  | Brize Norton Res |   |   |
| 31/1/04  | Ducklington res  |   |   |

##### Reserves

|          |                |   |    |
|----------|----------------|---|----|
| 1/11/03  | Ducklington A  | P | P  |
| 8/11/03  | Charlbury Res  | 0 | 7  |
| 15/11/03 | Hanborough Res | 3 | ## |
| 22/11/03 | Hailey Res     | P | P  |
| 29/11/03 | Freeland Res   | 3 | 4  |
| 6/12/03  | Chippy Swifts  | 0 | ## |
| 13/12/03 | Burford Utd    | 0 | ## |
| 20/12/03 | Hailey Res     | 0 | ## |
| 17/1/04  | FC Mills Res   |   |    |
| 24/1/04  | Hailey Res     |   |    |
| 31/1/04  | Charlbury Res  |   |    |

#### Division Two - 2003/2004

|                     | P  | W | D | L  | F  | A  | Pts |
|---------------------|----|---|---|----|----|----|-----|
| Carterton Town B    | 12 | 9 | 3 | 0  | 48 | 14 | 30  |
| FC Nomads           | 11 | 7 | 2 | 2  | 32 | 13 | 23  |
| AC Finstock         | 12 | 6 | 1 | 5  | 26 | 29 | 19  |
| Ducklington Res     | 9  | 5 | 1 | 3  | 22 | 9  | 16  |
| Tackley             | 11 | 5 | 1 | 5  | 29 | 22 | 16  |
| Northleigh B        | 10 | 4 | 3 | 3  | 25 | 15 | 15  |
| Spartan Rangers Res | 12 | 5 | 0 | 7  | 22 | 35 | 15  |
| Witney Wanderers    | 10 | 4 | 1 | 5  | 22 | 23 | 13  |
| Eynsham A           | 10 | 4 | 0 | 6  | 12 | 19 | 12  |
| Brize Norton        | 10 | 3 | 2 | 5  | 21 | 22 | 11  |
| Fieldtown Res       | 11 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 4  | 63 | 0   |

(Updated December 22nd 2003)

#### Division Four - 2003/2004


|                    | P  | W | D | L  | F  | A  | Pts |
|--------------------|----|---|---|----|----|----|-----|
| Freeland Res       | 12 | 9 | 0 | 3  | 36 | 17 | 27  |
| Chippy Swifts      | 12 | 8 | 1 | 3  | 69 | 24 | 25  |
| Kingham AB Res     | 12 | 8 | 1 | 3  | 29 | 11 | 25  |
| Milton Res         | 11 | 8 | 1 | 2  | 38 | 27 | 25  |
| Hailey Res         | 12 | 7 | 1 | 4  | 48 | 29 | 22  |
| Charlbury Town Res | 9  | 6 | 1 | 2  | 39 | 9  | 19  |
| Hanborough A       | 12 | 5 | 0 | 7  | 29 | 32 | 15  |
| Ducklington A      | 13 | 3 | 0 | 10 | 10 | 45 | 9   |
| Burford United     | 8  | 2 | 1 | 5  | 19 | 21 | 7   |
| FC Mills Res       | 11 | 2 | 1 | 8  | 16 | 40 | 7   |
| AC Finstock Res    | 12 | 0 | 1 | 11 | 7  | 89 | 1   |


**The Freedom of Information Act 2000 comes into force on January 1 2005.** The Act will allow anyone to request information from a state sector body, and with some exceptions, receive the information within 20 working days.

[www.dca.gov.uk/foi/](http://www.dca.gov.uk/foi/)


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# Wychwood Project Programme of Events

## February

Sunday 1st – **Scrub Clearance** (in conjunction with *Plant Life International* and the *Cotswold Rare Plants Group*) along part of the ancient Salt Way in order to create a more favourable habitat for the nationally rare plant, Meadow Clary. Details: Ken Betteridge, Tel: 878615.

Wednesday 4th – *Friends of the Oxfordshire Museum*. A talk by Gill Hey, **Landscape Archaeology at Yarnton**. Details: The Museum, Tel: 811456.

Friday 6th – *West Oxfordshire Field Club*. A talk by Mornee Button, **The Flora, Butterflies & Moths of Unimproved Limestone Grassland**. Details: Tony Florey, Tel: 775020.

Saturday 7th – **Friends of Breach Wood**. An open meeting to tell people about and raise support for the recently planted community woodland at Hailey. Details: Claire Musson, Tel: 772403.

Saturday 7th – **Leafield Community Wood**. A practical demonstration of young tree pruning by David Rees. Details: John Woolliams, Tel: 878758.

Saturday and Sunday, 7th and 8th – **Hedge Laying Training Weekend, Finstock**. Learn how to lay a hedge during a two day workshop under the expert guidance of Mark Stratton. Free of charge. **Places are limited**. Call the Wychwood Project office

on 814143 to reserve your place and for further details.

Wednesday 11th – **Hedgerow Restoration alongside the Salt Way**, an ancient track way and Local Nature Reserve. Details: Wychwood Project, Tel: 814143.

Wednesday 11th – *Oxford Meads BBOWT Group*. A talk by Diane Wilson, **Wildlife Gardening**. Details: Helen Ap-Rhisiart, Tel: 01865-374227.

Thursday 19th – *Wychwood Local History Society*. A talk by Sir Frederic Bolton, **Pudlicote 1154 – 2004**. Details: Wendy Pearse, Tel: 831023.

## March

Wednesday 3rd – *Friends of Oxfordshire Museum*. A talk by Ian Gourlay, **Tree Ring Dating & King Arthur's Table**. Details: The Museum, Tel: 811456.

Saturday 6th – **Wychwood timber uses – past, present and future**. Presented by speakers from *The International Tree Foundation*, *The Oxfordshire Woodland Project*, *The Wychwood Project*, and *The Oxfordshire Museum*. There is a charge of £20 for this event - £15 for Friends of The Wychwood Project. **Places are limited – advanced booking required**. Meeting at the Oxfordshire Museum, Park Street, Woodstock. Details: Oxfordshire Museum, Tel: 814103.

Tuesday 9th – *Friends of Witney Museum*. A talk by Keith Crawford, **Witney Blankets**. Details: John Margetts, Tel: 881243.

Wednesday 10th – *Friends of Wychwood Winter Meeting*. **People and Trees in the 21st Century** a talk by Jon Stokes, Community Development Officer with The Tree Council, and a mine of information about trees. Meet Ascott-under-Wychwood. Details: Wychwood Project, Tel: 814143.

Wednesday 10th – *Oxford Ornithological Society*. A talk by Dominic Couzens, **Birdsongs: as You've Never Heard Them Before**. Details: David Hawkins, Tel: 880027.

Wednesday 10th – *Oxford Meads BBOWT Group*. A talk by Adrian Thomas, **How Bumblebees Fly**. Details: Helen Ap-Rhisiart, Tel: 01865-374227.

Wednesday 17th – *Wychwood Pond Group – North Leigh Common Visit*. A walk to explore some of the area's ponds, starting on North Leigh Common. There will be a break for lunch in a pub. Pascal Nicolet of the Ponds Conservation Trust will be accompanying the group to provide expert commentary on what can be seen. Meet 10am North Leigh Common car park (OS Ref: SP399136).